

Theme: Why Every American needs to vote

A Woven Country

Together, we weave our threads to make a country
Together, we weave our threads to make a bond
Together, we raise our hands
Together, we create peace
Together, we create justice
Together, we are strong
United as one
Together, we cast our votes
United, we are a circle
Our votes linked to each other
Connected as one

A circle is broken
For a vote remains uncast
A circle is broken
For a link is missing
Apart, it cannot hold peace
Apart, it cannot hold justice
Apart, it is weak
For it is a broken circle

Small threads weaved to make the country
but the tinniest thread missing
Made the country unravel.

By: Dorothy O

For Love of Country

By: Azita P...

We all have the right to vote
Every woman and man

But why do some not share their voice
Although they should and can

Some citizens vote electronically
And others by paper and pen

Either way they are exercising their right
The original way or in a den

The important determining factors
Include education, income, and age

Others vote by absentee ballot
So their candidate can still take center stage

Whether voting for president every four years
Or other positions in between

Every vote counts
Although one may feel it is unseen

Other countries have dictators
And people are given no rights

Foreigners dream to come to America
Although it takes extreme heights

From the age of eighteen
If one who is able to vote does not

Say goodbye to our freedom
The democracy established will soon begin to rot

Why Every American Citizen Needs to Vote

Katie F.

There is an abundance of news about the coming election in November. The arguments and counter-arguments are made about several of the major policies and social issues of the day. We are bombarded with rhetoric from the politicians about their competing visions of America's future and how important this election is.

In point of fact, every American election is important and, consequently, every vote cast is correspondingly important. A democracy requires the participation of every citizen if it is to create a government which reflects the wishes of the citizenry and of the entire country. It is essential that every American citizen is registered and informed about the candidates and the propositions so that they can cast ballots based on an intelligent understanding of the issues. For the government to function properly, every legal voter must accept the responsibility of staying politically aware and involved in the electoral system by voting in each election.

The functioning of democracy depends on the exercise of power by the people of the state. The vote is a primary instrument of checking politicians and thereby protecting democracy. It makes sure that the government represents the will of the people. In a democracy, participation by citizens is essential or the democracy will cease to exist. When citizens vote, they do their part to keep the democracy active and flourishing. Even if citizens do not always like the results of an election, they know that there will be a future election, at which time things can be changed.

I was born in a very poor, rural province outside of Hanoi, Vietnam. Although adopted as a baby, I still have a great interest in my birth country. I often read about the closed society of modern Vietnam. Although it posits itself as a type of free society, Vietnam's implementation within the society is far different than in the United States. No true freedom of speech – if you speak or write against the government's position, you are subject to being tried for treason and jailed for a substantial period. In contrast, being a citizen of a free country, like the U.S., has inherent benefits. However, there are corresponding obligations that come with being a member of such a free and open society. One of the most essential obligations to perform is the participation in the electoral process—the right to vote.

In times past, men and women struggled and died for the right to vote. Voting is a way of honoring their legacy. It is a concrete demonstration of our commitment to the democratic way of life. A democracy requires the participation of every citizen if it is to create a government which reflects the wishes of the entire populace. Only by actually voting do we really have the right to complain about the positions candidates take. Americans must realize that, even within a large volume of votes, each ballot represents a will to determine the future, an acceptance of the responsibilities as U.S. citizens, and a pride in our country's principles.

There should be no excuse for not voting on Election Day. The passed measures and elected candidates will determine your money, your education, and your future. Voting is really the only time when everyone has an equal say in the political process. When Americans fail to vote, they forgo their voice in the system and their right to criticize their government. Neglecting to vote is more than an insult to the American belief in democracy-- it is unpatriotic.

Why every American citizen needs to vote

By Sam R

It's been ten long years since I've immigrated to the U.S.

The fighting was too much for Muhamed and me.

Too many people died.

We couldn't take it any longer.

Becoming citizens was always a dream of ours.

But it was wishful thinking to one day live there.

How would we get there? How would we escape?

God heard our prayers, though. Muhamed got a green card.

We left as soon as we could.

A new life would soon be ours.

We started to become naturalized citizens right away.

I read the Constitution, visited historic landmarks, and studied for the test.

I passed it with flying colors.

Now, the U.S. is no longer a foreign heaven to me.

It is my home.

An official at my ceremony mentioned that I may now exercise my right to vote.

He tells me I have a say in government elections.

But I am confused. I couldn't do that in my home country.

And why should two Middle Eastern immigrants be allowed to do that?

Muhamed helped clarify my mind.

He said that voting is why we came to the U.S.

So we could have more freedoms. More justice.

More happiness.

America is the land of the free, after all.

When November 6th came around, Muhamed and I drove to the polling place.

I felt nervous. Scared. Anxious.

Soon it was my turn to vote.

I stepped inside.

I made my choice.

I left the booth.

I thought voting would be more than that.

All I did was touch the screen.

Nothing special.

Just a simple action.

Who would've known that it felt like freedom.